

Message Text

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60

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EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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P 142154Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

USINT BAGHDAD

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AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 243999

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
OCTOBER 14, 1975:

Q. THERE IS A REPORT OF A BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN THE OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION AND THE
LIBYAN GOVERNMENT. I MENTIONED THIS TO YOU THIS MORNING.
AND I WAS WONDERING IF YOU HAD ANY FURTHER INFORMATION
REGARDING THIS.

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION. I AM AWARE OF THE
PRESS REPORTS, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE WE HAVE ANY CONFIRMA-
TION FROM THE OCCIDENTAL COMPANY THAT SUCH IS THE CASE. AS
YOU KNOW, WE WERE NOT PARTY TO THE TALKS THAT TOOK PLACE
IN NEW YORK CITY BETWEEN OCCIDENTAL AND REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THAT SITUATION? I KNOW ON THE

RECORD THE UNITED STATES STILL IS MAKING INQUIRIES AS
TO LIBYA'S INTENT. DID IT EVER ASCERTAIN LIBYA'S INTENT
ABOUT LIBYA'S DECISION NOT TO LET EMPLOYEES OF OCCIDENTAL
LEAVE AS THEY WISHED?

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A. MY RECOLLECTION ON THAT IS THAT THE LIBYANS HAVE
INFORMED US, BOTH IN TRIPOLI AND IN WASHINGTON, THAT THERE
IS NO OVERALL BAN ON THE DEPARTURE OF OCCIDENTAL EMPLOYEES
AND DEPENDENTS. I BELIEVE THEY HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY
HAVE TAKEN MEASURES TO PREVENT THE COLLAPSE OF THE OIL
FIELD OPERATIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE OCCURRED IF ALL OF THE
OCCIDENTAL TECHNICAL PERSONNEL SHOULD LEAVE. SO IT IS MY

UNDERSTANDING THAT THE LIBYANS HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO ALLOW OCCIDENTAL FIELD EMPLOYEES TO DEPART THE COUNTRY ON REGULAR LEAVE, PROVIDED OTHER EMPLOYEES ARE ARRIVING AT THE SAME TIME TO RELIEVE THEM SO THAT THE OIL FIELD OPERATIONS CAN CONTINUE.

Q. THAT'S AN INTERESTING PROCEDURE. YOU MEAN LIBYA WILL DETERMINE ACCORDIN TO ITS OIL PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS HOW AMERICANS DEPART THE COUNTRY AND PHASE THEIR DEPARTURES ACCORDINGLY?

A. I THINK THEY HAVE REACHED THIS UNDERSTANDING WITH THE OCCIDENTAL COMPANY.

Q. THIS ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEM TO CONSTITUTE HOLDING AMERICANS HOSTAGE FOR ECONOMIC PURPOSES.

A. ONE ANSWER IS WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING AS FAR AS I AM AWARE, OUR EMBASSY THERE HAS SAID THAT ONLY ONE PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH OCCIDENTAL HAS ASKED TO LEAVE. LTHAT WAS A WOMAN. AND THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT GAVE PERMISSION FOR HER TO LEAVE.

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